



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FAHRION (FFG 22)  
FPO AA 34091-1478

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w/ disk*  
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31 March 98

From: Commanding Officer, USS FAHRION (FFG 22)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Naval Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: 1998 COMMAND HISTORY OF USS FAHRION (FFG 22)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Mission and Organization  
(2) Chronology for 1998  
(3) Command History Narrative  
(4) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.

  
R. L. CULLINAN

Copy to:  
COMNAVSURFLANT (N02P)  
COMDESRON SIX (N02L)

## COMMAND MISSION

FAHRION's mission is to train her active duty personnel and selected reservists as a team to maintain full combat readiness. FAHRION routinely deploys from her home port to accomplish this and other missions, such as counter-narcotics operations, enforcement of United Nations sanctions, aircraft carrier escort duties, and port visits promoting naval recruiting and fostering public goodwill. FAHRION is often called upon to perform such missions on short notice and without Selected Reserve augmentation. Other missions include providing self-defense while protecting underway replenishment groups, amphibious forces and merchant shipping against subsurface, air and surface threats, and conducting prompt and sustained undersea warfare operations in conjunction with other sea control forces tasked to ensure friendly use of vital sea lanes of communication.

FAHRION is assigned to Destroyer Squadron SIX, CAPT J.W. Young Jr., USNR, commanding, and is homeported in Mayport, Florida.

## ORGANIZATION

Commanding Officer:	CDR Robert L. Cullinan, USN
Executive Officer:	CDR Russell P. Luehrsen, USN
Chief Engineer:	LCDR (b) (6) USN
Combat Systems Officer:	LT (b) (6) USN
Operations Officer:	LT (b) (6), USN
Training Officer:	LT (b) (6) USN
Supply Officer:	LTJG (b) (6) SC, USN
Command Senior Chief:	SKCS(SW) Rodney Hamann, USNR-TAR
SELRES Coordinator:	CDR (b) (6), USNR
SELRES Administrator:	LCDR (b) (6) USNR

## USS FAHRION (FFG 22) SCHEDULE

01JAN-11JAN	INPORT Mayport, FL for Holiday Leave and Upkeep
08JAN	Egyptian Navy (EN) Fast Cruise
12JAN	INPORT Mayport, FL for PRESTRIKE
13JAN-14JAN	UNDERWAY for EN Training
15JAN-20JAN	INPORT Mayport, FL for PRESTRIKE
21JAN-22JAN	UNDERWAY for EN Training, including Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQs) and Helo In-Flight Refueling (HIFR) demonstrations with HS-75
23JAN-24JAN	INPORT Mayport, FL for PRESTRIKE
26JAN-28JAN	UNDERWAY for EN Training, including DLQs and HIFR demonstrations with HS-75
29JAN-01FEB	INPORT Mayport, FL for PRESTRIKE and celebration of Egyptian Holiday of Ramadan
02FEB	UNDERWAY for EN Training
03FEB	INPORT Mayport, FL for PRESTRIKE
04FEB	UNDERWAY for EN Training
05FEB-08FEB	INPORT Mayport, FL for PRESTRIKE and Naval Reserve Training (NRT) weekend
09FEB-11FEB	UNDERWAY for EN Training including Underway Replenishment (FAS) with USS DETROIT
12FEB-17FEB	INPORT Mayport, FL for PRESTRIKE
18FEB-19FEB	UNDERWAY for EN Training including DLQs and HIFR demonstrations with HS-75
20FEB-23FEB	INPORT Mayport, FL for PRESTRIKE and NRT weekend
24FEB-25FEB	UNDERWAY for EN Training
26FEB-03MAR	INPORT Mayport, FL for PRESTRIKE
04MAR	UNDERWAY for Berth-shift
05MAR-23MAR	INPORT Mayport, FL for PRESTRIKE and NRT weekend
16MAR-17MAR	USN Crew Move-off
18MAR-19MAR	EN Crew Move-on
24MAR	UNDERWAY for EN Training Final Exercise
25MAR-30MAR	INPORT Mayport, FL for PRESTRIKE
31MAR	USS FAHRION (FFG 22) Decommissioning/Egyptian Navy Ship (ENS) SHARM EL SHEIKH (FFG 901) Commissioning Ceremony

## COMMAND HISTORY NARRATIVE

### January 98

FAHRION rung in the new year in her homeport of Mayport, Florida. While half of the crew enjoyed the end of a long holiday leave period, the other half were involved in providing basic damage control and in-rate training to over 140 Egyptian Navy (EN) sailors. FAHRION was designated to be transferred to the Arab Republic of Egypt on 31 March as part of the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program. The crew was responsible for training the foreign crew in all aspects of engineering and seamanship required to allow them to sail safely back to Egypt. Over the upcoming 3 months, the Egyptian crew grew to 188 in number, including 41 officers, while FAHRION's USN crew drew down to 10 officers and 123 enlisted personnel. A training plan was developed which concentrated the initial efforts on engineering and damage control equipment, then built to individual seamanship and watchstanding skills with the end goal being an integrated watchteam capable of combatting a main space fire.

On 8 January, the EN watch organization was verified with a day-long Fast Cruise. Two underway daysails were conducted the 13th and 14th with demonstrations of Sea and Anchor Detail, an anchorage, 76mm and CIWS PACFIRES, RHIB operations, and Man-Overboard recovery techniques. The EN Engineers got their first taste of Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises (BECCEs) during the first overnight training period, 21-22 January. An SH-3 from HS-75 provided the EN a first look at flight deck operations afloat on the 21st, but soon returned to NAS JAX when it experienced mechanical difficulty with the landing gear. An inport Main Space Fire Drill (MSFD) rounded out the week. Having completed a successful overnight period with a total of 300 personnel onboard, a 3-day period was conducted 26-28 January. Seemingly endless BECCE sets were punctuated with shiphandling training, an anchorage, a MSFD, and another set of DLQs.

Besides the challenges of berthing so many men, underway messing was even more complicated by the EN crew's participation in Ramadan, a month-long period in which persons of the Muslim faith do not eat or drink anything between sunrise and sunset. Upon return to port on the 28th, the EN crew celebrated the end of Ramadan with an enormous fast-breaking dinner. They then took an extended weekend trip to Orlando, FL to experience the magic of Disney World and the adventure of Universal Studios.

### February 98

The majority of the underway EN training took place in February. Although severe weather precluded effective training in the Jacksonville Operation Area on 3 February, two daysails were conducted on the 2nd and 4th in lieu of another scheduled 3-day period. More BECCEs, 76mm and CIWS PACFIRES, a General Quarters exercise, and Combat Systems drills were conducted. An UNREP (FAS) demonstration with USS DETROIT (AOE 4) capped another underway period 9-11 February, in which BECCEs, shiphandling training, a PACFIRE, and a NIXIE stream were also conducted. Inport MSFDs continued weekly, with EN teamwork continually improving.

## COMMAND HISTORY NARRATIVE

As Egyptian skills improved, they took on a more participative role in evolutions. During the 18-19 February underway, they conducted BECCes, a NIXIE Stream, MSFD, and gun shoot under the watchful eyes of USN watchstanders. The final DLQs with HS-75 were conducted on the 18th with the EN LSE controlling the helicopter. A final overnight period was conducted on the 24th and 25th, with EN completing BECCes, a MSFD, a gunshoot, and combat systems drills nearly independently. Inport missile handling training rounded out the month.

### March 98

Inport training and topside preservation were the focus at the beginning of March. The Chief Engineer and senior Gas Turbine Specialist accompanied senior EN officers to Miami, FL on 4-5 March to witness the testing of a Gas Turbine Engine (GTE) slated to be installed in FAHRION later in the month. However, when the engine was found to have a non-marine casing material, the GTE changeout was cancelled.

The American crew moved off the ship the 16th and 17th, leaving behind a clean but barren vessel. Pictures, mementos, and the last of the USN specific equipment was removed, dramatically transforming USS FAHRION toward her future identity and making the upcoming transfer become even more real. As the EN personnel moved aboard beginning on the 18th, the personality of the ship steadily changed to reflect the culture and lifestyle of her future homeland.

A final underway daysail was conducted 24 March, in which USN watchstanders tested their EN counterparts with numerous casualties and evolutions which might be expected on their upcoming trip to Egypt.

After two practice sessions 25 and 30 March, USS FAHRION was decommissioned 31 March 1998 following 16 years of faithful service around the world. CAPT Darwish, EN, then assumed command of ENS SHARM EL-SHEIKH (FFG 901). VADM H. C. Giffin III, USN, Commander, Surface Forces Atlantic Fleet, and CAPT J. W. Young Jr., USNR, COMDESRON SIX, were the American guest speakers in the combined Decommissioning, Transfer, and Commissioning ceremony. The Arab Republic of Egypt was represented by RADM Mohamed Farag Lotfy, Chief of Staff, Egyptian Navy, and RADM Tarek Noour, Egyptian Military Attaché to the United States.

# COMMANDER ROBERT L. CULLINAN

## United States Navy

Commander Rob Cullinan is a native of Annapolis, Maryland and received his commission in 1977 through the NROTC Scholarship Program upon graduation from The Citadel with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. He served his initial sea tour as Electrical Officer, Gunnery Officer and later as First Lieutenant of the Frigate **USS CAPODANNO (FF 1093)** where he qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer and completed deployments to the Mediterranean Sea, South America, and the North Atlantic. His second duty assignment was as Communications Officer on the Ammunition Stores Ship **USS SANTA BARBARA (AE 28)** where he made two combined Mediterranean Sea / Indian Ocean deployments. After completing Surface Ship Department Head School in 1983, he returned to sea as Ship Control Department Head and Operations Officer in the Guided Missile Frigate **USS DUNCAN (FFG 10)** from December 1983 to December 1985. This assignment was followed by a second department head tour as Operations Officer aboard the Guided Missile Destroyer **USS PREBLE (DDG 46)** where he made a combined Black Sea / Mediterranean Sea deployment.

In November 1987, Commander Cullinan reported to his first shore duty assignment on the staff of Commander, Surface Warfare Development Group, Little Creek VA as a Tactics Development Officer where he was responsible for the development of tactical doctrine for the effective employment of surface combatant weapon systems. Upon completion of Prospective Executive Officer School in November 1990, he reported as Executive Officer of the Guided Missile Frigate **USS NICHOLAS (FFG 47)** in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield. During this tour he participated in Operation Desert Storm combat operations against Iraq and was designated qualified for command.

Commander Cullinan next served on the staff of Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet as Force Readiness Assessment Officer from June 1992 through February 1995. His most recent shore duty assignment was at Fleet Combat Training Center, Atlantic, Dam Neck VA where he served as Executive Officer for Dam Neck Base as well as the training command from March 1995 to September 1996. He reported to his assignment as Commanding Officer of the Guided Missile Frigate **USS FAHRION (FFG 22)** in March 1997.

Commander Cullinan's awards include the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for heroic achievement against Iraq during the Gulf War, the Meritorious Service Medal (second award), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (third award), the Combat Action Ribbon and various unit and campaign awards. He is married to the former Kathleen Elizabeth Henry of North Kingston, RI. They have four children; Ryan, Katie, Kelsey and Kerry Ann and reside in Chesapeake, VA.

